

The restriction requirement has been reissued in order to clearly identify the Youngs et al reference.

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 13-21, drawn to a method of encapsulating pollutants.

Group II, claim(s) 22, drawn to a method of preparation of modified symmetric dendrimeric polymers and modified non-symmetric hyperbranched polymers.

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the shared corresponding special technical features do not provide a contribution over the prior art.

U.S. Patent 6,794,327 to Youngs et al disclose a symmetric dendrimer (see FIG. 1b) having a chemical element capable of forming three chemical bonds (e.g., nitrogen), an inorganic linking group (e.g., silicon), and at least one aliphatic chain with more than 8 carbon atoms (see the fifth paragraph of column 7).

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

two species of polymers including: 1) dendrimeric polymers having symmetrical chemical structure; 2) non-symmetric hyperbranched polymers;

Two species of polymer forms including: 1) powder; and 2) thin film.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species of from each group of species listed above to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number

Art Unit: 1797

is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew O Savage/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1797

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